



At the Theatres.

THE THEATRES.

Tuesday and Wednesday, *Iris*.
Thursday, *Alphonse and Gaston*.
Friday and Saturday, *The Earl of Pawtucket*.
Bijou—A Double Bill.

The Academy will offer two unusually strong attractions for its patrons this week, and in a third attraction will provide a musical comedy.

Pinero's remarkable play, *Iris*, will be produced on Tuesday and Wednesday nights, and there will be no matinee performance. The play has been one of the most discussed productions ever put on in London or New York and Richmond will have the same company and Virginia Harned, Southern's wife, will have the leading role.

"The Earl of Pawtucket," which has made the most phenomenal hit of the year in New York will also be a strong drawing card, playing Friday and Saturday with Saturday matinee. This comedy has for its leading man the eminent English actor, D'Orsay, who completely won the New York public and critics. He is magnificently equipped with his part in this piece.

The *Alphonse and Gaston* musical comedy will furnish the fun and music for the week, and the company comes this year with specialties galore, pretty girls and costumes, and fresh scenery.

Virginia Harned in "Iris."

Arthur Wing Pinero, the distinguished English dramatist, author of *Iris*, in which Virginia Harned will be seen at the Academy Tuesday and Wednesday nights, had, it would seem, a particular reason for writing this much discussed play, *Iris*, as, of course, it is well known, had its American production at the Criterion Theatre in New York last year, where it soon became the most discussed play of the season, and where it remained for five months, breaking all records for business at this popular play-house of Mr. Frohman's. Miss Harned achieved so great a success in this stellar role that it placed her at one bound, as it were, in the very front rank of emotional actresses on the stage at the present time. Mr. Pinero, the author, believes the stage to be a place where people may be instructed as well as entertained. About twelve years ago Mr. Pinero began devoting his attention to the study of social conditions as they appeared to him in England, fully realizing the abundance of material from which he could construct entertaining plays that he could be extremely true to nature. Mr. Pinero occupies a very prominent position in the social life of England, and being a student it was but natural that he should turn his talents in this particular channel being the first to invade this realm and

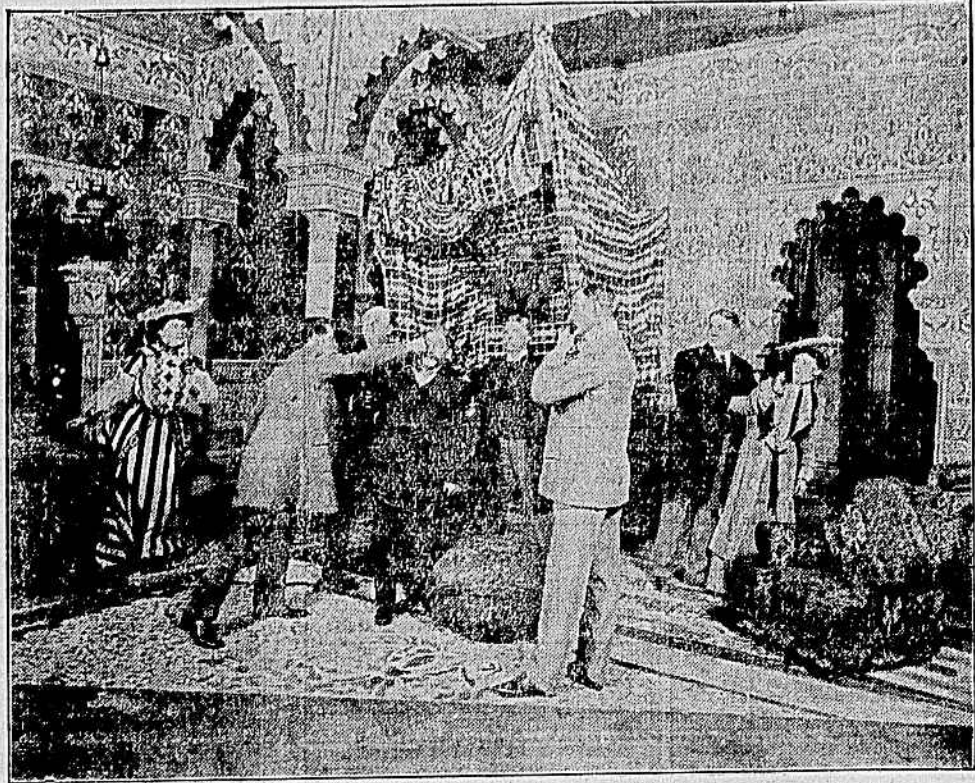
construct high-class so-called problem plays.

Mr. Pinero has experimented much with the dramatic machine. Probably his greatest service to the dramatic art is in his mastery of the powers and limits of expression in the dramatic form, and "Iris," his latest work, it seems, is regarded as an illustration of this claim. He is undoubtedly the pioneer, at least, among the more forcible writers of so-called problem plays.

All of his plays have attracted unusual attention, and each in their turn became

ed, in a measure, plays of this character, as in his opinion they serve a good purpose—not an unwholesome one.

Mr. Frohman sends Miss Harned here surrounded by practically the same excellent company that gave the play its first production in New York, there being only two changes. The members of her company are Henry Jewett, William Courtney, Elton Whitham, Margaret Gordon, Elizabeth Goodall, Mabel Snider, J. Hartley Manners, Stanley Dark, Frederick Burt, Lawrence Edinger, Eleanor



A CLIMAX IN "EARL OF PAWTUCKET."

the subject of much general discussion. "Iris" is conceded to be the most pronounced so-called problem play that Mr. Pinero has written, though in constructing his previous dramas he is credited with having said that he believes the public—the theatre-going public—demand-

Sanford, Amy Meers and Harry Lewis.

Alphonse and Gaston.

The new "Alphonse and Gaston," which comes to the Academy Thursday night is said to be the best musical farce on the road. The present edition is the result of the efforts of Allen Lowe, the well known author, who has set Mr. F. O'Farrell, Frenchman in a new and better environment than they have heretofore had. The production is a most costly and elaborate one, and is beautiful in scenic and sartorial setting.

An all star cast kept the makers is announced among the leaders being the Powers Brothers, Will and Andrew, the European successes, Harry Montgomery and Tony Pearl, Harry B. Watson, the hit of "The Defender," Lawrence A. Cover, the phenomenal tenor, and the Beardsley Sisters, Gretchen and Adelaide, late of "The Burgomaster." The company in all numbers 40 people, and includes the famous British Roses, especially engaged for this production, and the eight specialty show girls, the Misses Billie Wilson, Blanche Stella, Julia Cooke, Marjorie Williams, Pauline Elzing, Fannie Williams, Mae Behan and Mignon Phillips.

A noteworthy feature of "Alphonse and Gaston" is its new and catchy musical numbers, among them being "The Evening Song," "The Maiden With the Touching Sign," "Minnehaha," "Sammy," "Concho Love Song," "Our Director," "Sunshine Sue" and "Sunny Africa."

Earl of Pawtucket.

The plot of "The Earl of Pawtucket" deals with the adventures of an English nobleman, who has come to New York to win for his wife an American girl, by whom he has been fascinated, though he does not even know her name. His acquaintance with her begins while both are imprisoned in one of the cars of a Pullman Palace car, the machinery of which has broken down, leaving the car containing the noble lord and the American girl suspended over a hundred feet up in the air. They are kept there for nearly twenty-four hours while the car is being repaired. The girl's pluck and cheerfulness under the distressing circumstances, added to her beauty and cleverness, make the Earl her devoted slave. When the car is at last finally released, he loses track of her before he finds out her name. He knows, however, that she is to return to America in a day or two, and determines to follow her. He considers his intention to his American friend, Montgomery Putnam—a rich New Yorker who has fled from America to avoid paying alimony to his divorced wife. As the Earl does not wish to travel in propria persona, Putnam suggests that he assume his name, assuring him that the deception will never be known, and this the Earl does.

Arrived in New York, at the Waldorf-Astoria, he finds the object of his search, Arthur Weatherbee, as Montgomery Putnam. The girl, who is really the divorced wife of the genuine Putnam, is presented as Miss Harriet Fordyce, her maiden name, and of course, she knows the Earl is masquerading under the false name—but she doesn't reveal her knowledge, and quickly discovers who her new acquaintance really is without letting him know. Putnam's relatives, only two of whom know him by sight; a lawyer's clerk with a writ and a claim for \$5,000; another court officer, empowered to arrest Putnam for non-payment of alimony; and several other people who are determined to make trouble for the real Putnam. Lord Cardington, the Earl, tries to bribe out the fact that he is the real Putnam, before he discovers the unpleasant consequences which his impersonation entails, and his attempts to convince everybody that he is an American by the use of slang phrases of the real meaning of which he has not an idea—are extremely amusing. He, of course, becomes confused, and at last, just as he is to be arrested for contempt of court, for non-payment of alimony, and as a final charge, for the murder of Lord Cardington—who is said to have mysteriously disappeared—he is really Lord Cardington, whereupon all the complications are cleared away, and the piece ends as it should.

American, and his delightful self-satisfaction when he riddles up some expressive Americanism, thinking he had delivered it perfectly, is indescribably funny. One of the pleasant things to record about this piece, which is to play at the Academy Friday and Saturday, with matinee, is that, while its situations and lines might easily be twisted to convey a tinge of farcicalness, this has all been carefully eliminated and there is not a single suggestion of anything in the entire play which could cause a blush, even to the most puritanical of play-goers.

Patti's Good Heart.

A recent instance of Madame Patti's thoughtfulness and kindness of heart came out a few days ago, by accident. Chevalier Luigi Petich died here in poverty. He had once occupied high positions, among others, that of Minister of Italy at Mexico City. Madame Patti had known him both in Mexico and at the Italian Court. She heard that he had died penniless and was in danger of being buried in Potter's Field, so she sent a man to the undertaking place of A. J. Matthews, on Eighth Avenue, who said that Madame Patti wished to pay all expenses.

The funeral was going on at the time and no one seemed to know what was to become of the body. The Public Administrator was communicated with, and he

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Several hundred of them will be placed on sale to-morrow, dark and medium shades—not a suit **\$1.95** in the lot worth less than \$3.50. Choice

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malice in his face and a disposition to wreck the air ship and destroy all it holds among his purposes. With the discovery, a combat in mid-air ensues, ending with the severance of that part of the ladder holding the villain, who at once drops earthward.

The scene is said to be one of the most standing ever introduced into the drama. The company presenting "Hearts Adrift" is reported to be one of unusual excellence and is headed by E. L. Snider, who plays the part of the hero. Others in the supporting company include Augustin MacHugh, Frederick Backus, Philip McCarthy, Augustin Glassmire, Fannie Midgley, Bert Walker, Mabel Florence, Eugene Bessner, Virginia West-

fun began again, continuing until the moon went down in the west, while a dull red streak in the eastern sky proclaimed that "day done break."

The dance was in keeping with its title, and blushing young maidens begged the honor of quadrille, two step or waltz from their timorous bachelor friends.

The Committee of Invitation was as follows: Miss Bessie Clark, Miss Bessie Nance, Mattie Waddell, Sally Nance, Chaperones: Mesdames E. T. Waddell, H. S. Sanders, John F. Nance.

Among those present were: Misses Waddell, Clark, Nance; Mrs. W. C. Wilcox, Misses Walker, Mr. Richardson, Miss Richardson, Miss Harrison, Miss Upshaw, Messrs. Major, Johnson,

A GERMAN AT THE HENRY CLAY INN

Hanover County Officers Qualify—Randolph-Macon Ahead.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) ASHLAND, VA., Jan. 2.—The new year was ushered in with a largely attended german at the Henry Clay Inn. Many of the "stay-at-homes" were present.

Good music and many pretty women were the noticeable features. The following participated: Miss McMullen, Miss Taylor, Miss Vaden, Miss Milnes, Miss Kerr, Miss Enster, Miss Wright, Miss Taylor, Miss Ledew, Miss Harris, Miss Davis, Miss Smith, Misses Haw, Misses Bridges, Miss Draper, Alabama; Miss Grambling, Georgia; Miss Turnbull, Maryland; Miss Montague, Miss Garnett, Miss Potts, Miss Tyler, Miss Blincoe, Mr. Pace, Messrs. Kerr, Jordan, Foy, Blanton, Fleet, Moore, Taylor, Jones, Allison, Scott, Blakeney, Robinson, Woolfolk, McCullen, Pries, Cox, Hoytson, Vaden, Bates, Varney, Buchanan and Mann. Matrons—Mrs. Ad-dison, Mrs. Buchanan, Mrs. Maury, Mrs. Kerr, Mrs. Bridges. The german was led by Messrs. Kerr and Cox.

The county officers of Hanover county all qualified to-day at Hanover Court-house before J. A. Brown, clerk of the Circuit Court. All of the requirements of the new laws have been absolutely complied with, and they are now ready to administer the duties of their respective offices.

The appointment of Leslie Ellis to the position of freight agent of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad at Richmond gives particular satisfaction here. This appointment continues in line with the appointment of Leslie Ellis to the position of freight agent of the road at the time of his death.

The college session will be resumed on Tuesday next with an increased attendance. The old college is fast establishing a high record among educational institutions for the standard of the work it is doing in university training. Randolph-Macon holds the banner this year for furnishing the largest number of scholarship and fellowship students at Johns Hopkins University, Yale being next—seventeen.

The younger child of Mr. W. N. Vaughan, near Dunn's Chapel, died yesterday.

fishness of Hymns.

According to Professor J. Scott Clark, of Northwestern University, the standard church hymns are defective. Most of them are introspective, they deal with the spiritual condition of the self and with the chances of the individual to get to heaven. They are selfish. Few hymns express the principles of the second great commandment—that we should love our neighbors as ourselves. With the exception of "Blest Be the Tie That Binds," there is scarcely a well known hymn that is altruistic sentiment.



MISS VIRGINIA HARNED IN "IRIS."

brook and Stella Barnes. The entire production is reported to be a most elaborate one. There are four acts divided into seven scenes. "Hearts Adrift" is to come to the Bijou Thursday, Friday and Saturday of next week.

NAVAL Y. M. C. A.

Miss Helen Gould Likely to Assist in Erecting One.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

NORFOLK, VA., Jan. 2.—Miss Helen Gould, the most prominent patroness and benefactor of the navy branch of the Y. M. C. A. work, has been consulted by a Portsmouth gentleman relative to the establishment of a branch of this institution at a point near the entrance to the navy yard in that city.

The advantages of having the institution near the yard were pointed out to Miss Gould, and it is believed that she will take action along the lines suggested.

It is understood that the Norfolk branch of the Naval Y. M. C. A. has been found to occupy too cramped quarters, and that it will be necessary to erect or to secure a larger building.

Most of the recruits brought to the receiving ships Franklin and Richmond are from the interior, and the majority of these are very young. They come largely from the smaller towns, and the temptations of a city and the freedom of the sailor's life ashore renders them susceptible to the evil influences which the Naval Y. M. C. A. is designed to counteract.

LEAP YEAR DANCE.

Young Ladies of Charles City Turn Tables on the Beau.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) CHARLES CITY, C. H., VA., Jan. 2.—The leap year ball given at Charles City Courthouse last evening, was one of the most charming affairs that has transpired in this locality for some time. A bevy of fair young maidens, inspired with leap year frolicsomeness, arranged the dance and generously clubbed in and treated the bachelors of the neighborhood to one of the prettiest dances and most unique entertainments of the season.

A committee of young ladies met at the courthouse and decorated the walls of the old colonial building with wreaths of running cedar and sprigs of holly. The floor was polished to a dangerous state of smoothness. When the work of preparation was completed, the picturesque appearance of the court room justified their endeavors. Dancing began at 8:30 and continued until 11 o'clock, when supper was served. At 11:30 the

Conifer, Saunders, Vaden, Gill, Bell, Richardson and others.

Miss Maud G. Steel is visiting Auditor and Mrs. A. S. Baker, Scranton, Pa.

Misses Bessie Steel and Julia Cottrill, who have been spending their holidays with relatives in Washington, D. C., are expected home Monday.

BIJOU THEATRE

MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY.

Walter Fessler's Great Melodramatic Success of the Season

The Great White Diamond

The Swing for Life; the Human Mail Bag; the Cliff Explosion and other sensational climaxes. A thrill with each act.



Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Spencer and Aborn Present

"HEARTS ADRIFT"

By LANGDON MCCORMICK. E. L. SNADER AS CAPT. TEDDY. A play which has thrilled thousands of playgoers because of cleverly constructed plot, capable acting and sensational climaxes.

TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY, JAN. 5-6.

CHARLES FROHMAN Presents

VIRGINIA HARNED

IN PINERO'S MASTERPIECE,

IRIS

The most discussed play of the age. The New York Sun says: "Not to have seen this masterpiece is TO HAVE MISSED a great vital play."

PRICES, \$1.50, \$1.00, 50c, 35c, 25c.

Thurs. Night, Jan. 7th. **ALPHONSE and GASTON** Prices, 25, 35, 50, 75c, \$1. SEATS ON SALE.

Friday and Saturday, Jan. 8, 9. MATINEE SATURDAY.

KIRKE LA SHELLE'S COMEDY TRIUMPH,

THE EARL OF PAWTUCKET, Seven Phenomenal Months in New York.

By AUGUSTUS THOMAS, Author of "Arizona."

The Positive Society Event. A Humorous Play of the Sublimest Quality

A Refreshing Innovation. Exalted Fun in a Class by Itself. Clean, Crisp, Noble

The Original Magnificent Production.

Stage Furnishings of Surpassing Elegance. The Palm Room, Turkish Room and the Private Suite, No. 854, of the Famous Waldorf-Astoria Hotel Faithfully Reproduced.

PRICES: \$1.00, 75c, 50c, 25c, 15c, 10c, 5c, 2c, 1c.

SEATS ON SALE MONDAY.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

PATTI'S FAREWELL CONCERT. THURSDAY, FEB. 11th. Prices: \$2, \$3, \$4, \$5 and \$6. Box seats, \$7, \$8 and \$10. Mail Orders Received at Box Office.

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